

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original): A valve assembly, comprising:  
a replacement valve; and  
  
a collapsible and expandable anchoring structure,  
  
said anchoring structure being dimensioned to lodge inside a valve sinus.
2. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~54~~ 1, wherein said anchoring structure comprises a plurality of elliptical segments joined side by side to form junctures.
3. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~55~~ 2, wherein said junctures define longitudinal support post areas.
4. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~56~~ 3, wherein said longitudinal support post areas are configured to coincide with the sinus commissural posts.
5. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~55~~ 2, wherein said elliptical segments flare outwardly at the inflow and outflow ends.
6. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~55~~ 2, wherein said elliptical segments are joined by a double crimp.
7. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~54~~ 2, wherein said elliptical segment anchoring structure is made of a material with a high modulus of elasticity.

8. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~55~~ 2, wherein the outflow ends of said elliptical segments are removed and the distal ends of the junctures between elliptical segments are formed into prongs.

9. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~54~~ 2, wherein said elliptical segment anchoring structure is made from one piece of tubing.

10. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~61~~ 8, wherein said elliptical segment anchoring structure comprises a plurality of support posts.

11. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~62~~ 9, wherein said support posts comprise axial slots oriented toward the outflow end.


12. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~63~~ 10, wherein said support posts comprise a plurality of suture bores.

13. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~62~~ 9, wherein said support posts are configured to coincide longitudinally with the sinus commissural posts.

Respectfully submitted,

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